



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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IRAN DEPLOYS 4,000 CENTRIFUGES IN SECRET FACILITIES

August 11, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "Iran was said to have constructed thousands of gas centrifuges required for the enrichment of uranium, a key process in the assembly of nuclear weapons. The National Council of Resistance of Iran has released the content of an Iranian government document that reported the production of thousands of centrifuges for uranium enrichment. The document said the machines, produced in Isfahan and Teheran, were meant to be operated at secret facilities throughout Iran.

"We were able to assemble thousands of centrifuge machines that could be made operational in different sites across the country," the Iranian opposition group quoted the classified Iranian government document as saying. The council said it has identified the secret enrichment sites in Iran. But a spokesman said he could not provide additional details..."

HALT URANIUM CONVERSION 'WITHOUT DELAY,' RUSSIA TELLS IRAN

August 10, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "Russia, the main foreign partner in Iran's effort to develop atomic energy, called...on Tehran to suspend "without delay" its nuclear fuel conversion work, saying this would not undermine its civilian nuclear power program. "The wise decision would be to stop work that has begun on uranium conversion without delay," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement.

Russia's appeal came as the UN nuclear watchdog went into emergency session in Vienna to consider Iran's resumption of nuclear fuel work which has raised concerns that Tehran was secretly trying to pursue a nuclear weapons program.

The Russian statement said: "We are convinced that the situation that has arisen now has not gone beyond the point of no return. With goodwill it can be corrected."

But Tehran should immediately halt its nuclear fuel work and continue to work closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "to resolve remaining question over Iran's nuclear program," it added. The statement added that while Iran had "unfortunately" resumed work on converting uranium, it could stop this again without harming its efforts to develop a nuclear energy program for civilian use. "We think that Iran could definitely maintain the moratorium without any damage to the realization of its nuclear energy program," the statement added.

Russia plays a crucial role in Iran's nuclear efforts and has led the project for construction of Iran's first nuclear power station at Bushehr..."

U.S. ISSUES RED SEA ALERT

August 11, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "The United States has issued an alert of a strike against Western shipping in the Red Sea.

The State Department has posted a warning for Americans to avoid cruises or travel in the Red Sea. The department has raised the prospect of piracy near the coast of Yemen or Somalia.

"This Public Announcement is being updated to alert Americans to ongoing security concerns in the region, including for seaborne vessels traveling in the southern Red Sea," the Aug. 4 announcement said. "U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness."

Officials said the Horn of Africa and southern Red Sea have also become areas of operations for pirates. They said pirates appear to be operating from an area from Somalia to Yemen..."

PAKISTAN TEST-FIRES ITS FIRST CRUISE MISSILE

August 11, 2005 Voice of America News reported: "Pakistan has successfully tested its first ground-fired cruise missile, capable of carrying nuclear and conventional weapons. Pakistani military officials say the cruise missile was fired early Thursday, but they did not disclose the launch site. The rocket, called Babur, is said to be capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional weapons.

Speaking to reporters after the launch, President General Pervez Musharraf said the cruise missile test would further strengthen Pakistan's defense capabilities. "The biggest value of this system is that it is not detectable, it cannot be intercepted. We are proud of this missile. And this is the greatest gift to the Pakistani nation by the scientists of Pakistan," he said.

President Musharraf says the Babur missile, with its 500-kilometer range, is superior to neighboring India's Bramos cruise missile, which has a range of 290 kilometers. He vowed to maintain a military balance with rival India in both conventional and

unconventional fields, even if India acquired high-technology U.S. weapons, such as the Patriot missile system.

"There was talk of India getting Patriot missiles, and there was a feeling that there was an imbalance, which is being created because of the purchase of very advanced technology weapons. Let me say, this improves the balance. So, that is the significance of the Babur missile that we have fired," he said.

Pakistani officials say the cruise missile is not covered by a new agreement with India to provide advance notice of ballistic missile tests. The agreement was finalized in New Delhi last week, but has yet to be signed. It is part of efforts aimed at reducing border tensions and the risk of an accidental conflict.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947..."

NETANYAHU QUILTS ISRAELI CABINET OVER GAZA WITHDRAWAL

August 7, 2005 VOA News reported: "Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has quit the government to protest Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. His resignation came just before the cabinet voted 17-5 Sunday to start the first stage of the pullout August 15 by dismantling three isolated Gaza settlements.

Israeli media quote aides to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as saying the evacuation will begin on schedule, despite the resignation.

Mr. Netanyahu - a Sharon rival and former prime minister - has long opposed the withdrawal. Reuters quotes his resignation letter as saying he "cannot be a part of" what he called the irresponsible move to evacuate Gaza..."

AIRBORNE LASER TEAM COMPLETES NEW PHASE OF PAYLOAD TESTING

August 8, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "The Boeing Airborne Laser (ABL) team has completed flight testing of the system's passive mission payload, moving the program through another phase of critical testing. This test event, called the Low Power Systems Integration-Passive test, included ground and flight tests of ABL's battle management command and control system and the Beam Control/Fire Control segment.

"Completion of this test phase for the Airborne Laser program further demonstrates the air worthiness and the functionality of the airborne mission payload," said Boeing Missile Defense Systems Vice President and General Manager Pat Shanahan. "With each testing increment, the ABL Team is making steady progress in bringing the ABL into the hands of the warfighter to defend against ballistic missile threats."

Boeing is the prime contractor and systems integrator for the ABL, which consists of a megawatt-class, high-energy Chemical Oxygen Iodine Laser placed on a Boeing 747-400 aircraft. ABL is designed to detect, track and destroy ballistic missiles in their boost phase of flight. ABL also can pass information on launch site, target track and predicted impact to other layers of the government's ballistic missile defense architecture.

During this latest phase of testing the ABL, the ABL Team demonstrated the stability and alignment of the two beam control and fire control optical benches with the turret.

That test demonstrated the system's pointing and vibration control functions as well as its ability to acquire targets as directed by the battle management segment..."

BLAIR VOWS HARD LINE ON FANATICS

August 5, 2005 BBC News reported: "Tony Blair has outlined a raft of plans to extend powers to deport or exclude foreigners who encourage terrorism. The UK can already exclude or deport those who pose a threat to security and Mr Blair said he also wanted to clamp down on those who advocated terror.

The prime minister said he was prepared to amend human rights laws to make deportations more straightforward. But Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy said Mr Blair's announcements would put the cross-party consensus under strain.

The measures came as Scotland Yard confirmed they had arrested two more people in London earlier this week in connection with the 21 July attempted bombings. It brings the total of people still in custody over the bomb attempts to 17 - three of whom have been charged.

On the new anti-terror package, Mr Kennedy warned that plans to ban Muslim organisations, powers to close mosques and deport people who "visit particular bookshops and websites" risked "inflaming tensions and alienating people".

Shami Chakrabarti, director of civil rights group Liberty, said Mr Blair has attacked key human rights and would jeopardise national unity..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa
ljtuc@msn.com*